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ABSTRACT

The study presents statistics in verbal, graphic, and tabular form based on three different population sets: the population as a whole, the volunteer population during the year ending in April 1974, and the volunteer population during the week of April 7-13, 1974. The most typical volunteer was a married white woman between ages 25 and 44 who held a college degree and was in the upper income bracket. Most volunteers (50%) during the week of April 7-13, 1974 engaged in religious oriented activities. For other activities the respective percentages for that week were: education, 15%; health, 15%; civic/community action, 14%; citizenship, 12%; recreation, 11%; social welfare, 7%; politics, 3%; and justice, 1%. A comparison of the present study with one done in 1965 shows that more volunteers are working more hours each week and with greater regularity than the earlier group. The three most frequently cited reasons for volunteering were: helping others, enjoying volunteer work, and satisfying a sense of duty. Of individuals involved in volunteerism, 15% said they were not going to continue as volunteers, mostly due to project termination. Four appendixes contain survey methods and reliability data, the survey questionnaire, and descriptions of ACTION programs. (Author/JR)

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ED120391

A statistical study of volunteers in the United States.

THE AGENCY FOR ACTION VOLUNTEER SERVICE

AMERICANS VOLUNTEER 1974

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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PREFACE

This report is a sequel to *Americans Volunteer*, published by the Department of Labor in 1969. That report was based on a survey conducted by the Census Bureau in November, 1965. This report is based on a similar survey conducted by the Census Bureau in April, 1974.

To the Department of Labor's objective of exploring the supplementation of the labor force by volunteer activity, ACTION has added three objectives. First, we are interested in volunteer trends from 1965 to 1974. For this reason, the survey design was very similar to that of 1965. Second, we are interested in the program implications of the volunteer survey. Hence, we asked questions for the first time of those who did not volunteer in 1974. This information should be useful to all volunteer agencies, including ACTION. Third, we are interested in the widest possible dissemination of information about voluntarism. Accordingly, we are giving broad distribution to this report and are making the computer tapes available to persons who wish to analyze them for the purpose of adding to our knowledge about voluntarism.

In preparing for this survey, ACTION consulted initially with the Department of Labor and the Census Bureau. In designing the questionnaire, we consulted with such private sector groups as the Association of Volunteer Bureaus of America, the Center for a Voluntary Society, the Commission on Voluntary Service and Action, the League of Women Voters, the National Center for Voluntary Action, and the National Information Center for Voluntarism. We also consulted with officials of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the National Science Foundation. Overall manager for the two-year life of this project is Donald J. Eberly of ACTION's Office of Policy and Planning.

Michael P. Balzano
Director, ACTION

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INTRODUCTION

In an attempt to reach the widest possible audience, the information in this survey of volunteers is presented in three ways: verbally, graphically and in tabular form. By doing so, ACTION hopes to be responsive to persons interested in research on voluntarism at various levels. Even more detailed information can be obtained from the computer print-out and the tape where the information is stored. Requests for the print-out and the tape should be addressed to the Office of Policy and Planning, ACTION, Washington, D.C. 20525.

In interpreting the written word, the graphs and the tables, the reader should not overlook the statement on reliability in Appendix A. A careful reading of the statement will suggest the language to use when making survey comparisons. Here are a few examples:

A Census Bureau survey indicates that there were approximately 37,000,000 volunteers over age 13 in the country in the year ending April, 1974.

The survey showed quite conclusively that religion was the most popular field for volunteers.

It seems very likely that the proportion of women doing volunteer work was greater than the corresponding proportion of men.

The rate of volunteering among employed persons appeared to be virtually the same as for the population as a whole, but appeared to be significantly higher for employed persons in the public sector as compared with those in the private sector.

This report should be read with proper respect for the degree of reliability associated with the numerical data. And when the reader translates the data from this report to his own audience, he is asked to convey a similar interpretation.

The reader will notice that the volunteer statistics in this report are related to three different bases or population sets. The first is the population as a whole. In April, 1974, the Census Bureau estimated the total population age 14 and over at 156,446,000. All graphs based on this total population are drawn horizontally.

The second base is the volunteer population during the year ending in April 1974. The survey shows this figure to be 36,812,000. The third group is the set of persons who volunteered during the week of April 7-13, 1974. This is a part of the former group and is numbered in the survey at 15,455,000. A single week period was selected because of the much higher rate of recall expected of volunteers. Much volunteer activity is forgotten over the course of a year. All graphs which are based on volunteers rather than total population are drawn vertically.

To what extent can the activities of the volunteer for that week be viewed as typical for volunteers throughout the year? Probably quite typical. Religious activities may be somewhat overstated since Passover occurred on April 7 and Easter on April 14. Educational projects were presumably more active than in the summer months but probably not at their peak because of the Easter-Passover season. Volunteers in recreation were probably fewer than in summertime, and more than in wintertime. Political volunteers, a group that may well show the greatest cyclical variation in numbers, were active in a number of primary campaigns and preparing for Congressional and local elections in the autumn. Their level of activity was very likely not far from the midway point between a Presidential election year and an off-year.

There is little reason to suppose that the other volunteer activities—health, justice, citizenship, social/welfare, and civic/community action—showed any great variation from the norm.

A comparison of two tables suggests that the rate of volunteering during the April 7-13 week was somewhat below average. As noted above, some 15½ million persons volunteered during the week. That is 42% of the total number of persons who volunteered during the year. However, when the latter group was asked for their frequency of volunteer work, they gave these answers:

Once a week	36%
Once every two weeks	10
Once a month	14
Only a few times	22
Only once	7
Other	11
Total	100%

Pro-rating these answers on a weekly basis (all the once-a-week volunteers, half of the bi-weekly volunteers, and so on) gives a volunteer rate of at least 47%. When the "other" category is included, the rate probably goes above 50%, a figure significantly higher than the 42% who had reported themselves as having volunteered during the week of April 7-13.

Throughout this report, percentages have been rounded to the nearest unit. Hence, percentages will sometimes add to 99 or 101 instead of 100.

Occasionally, percentages add to much more than 100. This occurs with such multiple choice questions as the type of organization which sponsored the volunteer work. The survey indicates that several million persons served with more than one activity during the week of April 7-13.

The Survey Questionnaire is reproduced in Appendix B. It was linked with the April 1974 Current Population Survey. This is a monthly survey which includes detailed information about each respondent's age, sex, color and other demographic characteristics.

Selected tables from the survey are printed in Appendix C.

A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

One out of four Americans over the age of 13 does some form of volunteer work, according to a 1974 Census Bureau Survey commissioned by ACTION. That means nearly 37 million Americans, or 24 percent of 156 million citizens over the age of 13 gave without payment some of their time, energy and effort to a cause in the year ending April, 1974.

Volunteers averaged nine hours a week on their individual projects. This is the equivalent of 3,500,000 people working full time for one year. By comparison, the number of paid workers during 1974 was approximately 85 million.

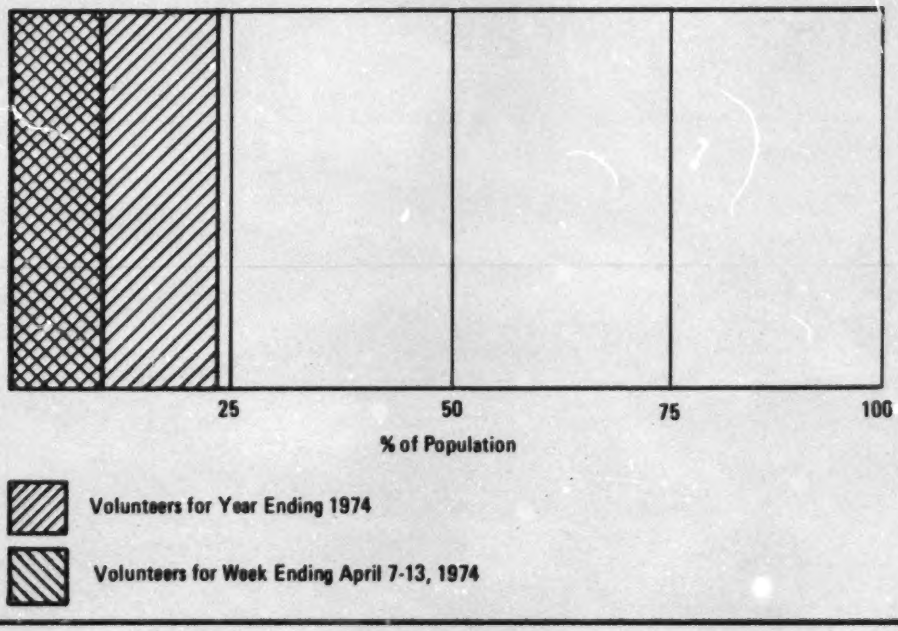
When volunteers were classified by the frequency of their labor, measured from a high of 'once a week' to 'only once a year' more than one third replied they worked 'once a week'.

During the survey's sample week of April 7 to 13, 1974, 50 percent of the volunteers did religious-affiliated work.

The most typical American volunteer in 1974 was a married, white woman between ages 25 and 44 who held a college degree and was in the upper income bracket.

No. 1

Volunteer Work Performed for Week and Year, 1974



A hallmark of American voluntarism is that all strata of economic, educational and social levels contribute their share. The survey shows that 12 percent of those Americans who live below the family income level of $4,000 a year donate their time and effort to a cause of their choosing. Even among the unemployed, 17 percent do volunteer work.

Further highlights of the Census Survey with specific details are described in the text and in the accompanying charts and tables. And, an attempt has been made at trying to determine the untapped reservoir of manpower available to future volunteer activities.

A comparison between the Department of Labor survey of 1965 and the 1974 survey shows a continual rise in voluntarism.

The 1965 survey showed 18 percent of the population participated in voluntarism, compared to 24 percent in 1974. Where comparisons can be made with the 1965 survey they will be included.

In the 1965 survey, for example, religion was not listed as a volunteer category but was reported under the heading of "other". Consequently, it very likely was under-reported. When both surveys are adjusted to eliminate persons who did religious volunteer work only, the 1965 volunteer rate becomes 16 percent and that for 1974, 20 percent.

In 1965, 21 percent of the female population were volunteers, compared to 26 percent in 1974. This increase occurred at a time when female labor force participation rates rose substantially. Male volunteers numbered 15 percent in 1964 and 20 percent in 1974. Thus, the rate of increase for men during the nine-year interval was slightly higher than that for women.

The increase was maintained in the married category with 21 percent in 1965 and 27 percent in 1974.

Single persons volunteered at the rate of 14 percent in 1965 and 20 percent in 1974. Widowed, divorced and separated individuals numbered 10 percent in 1965 and 15 percent in 1974.

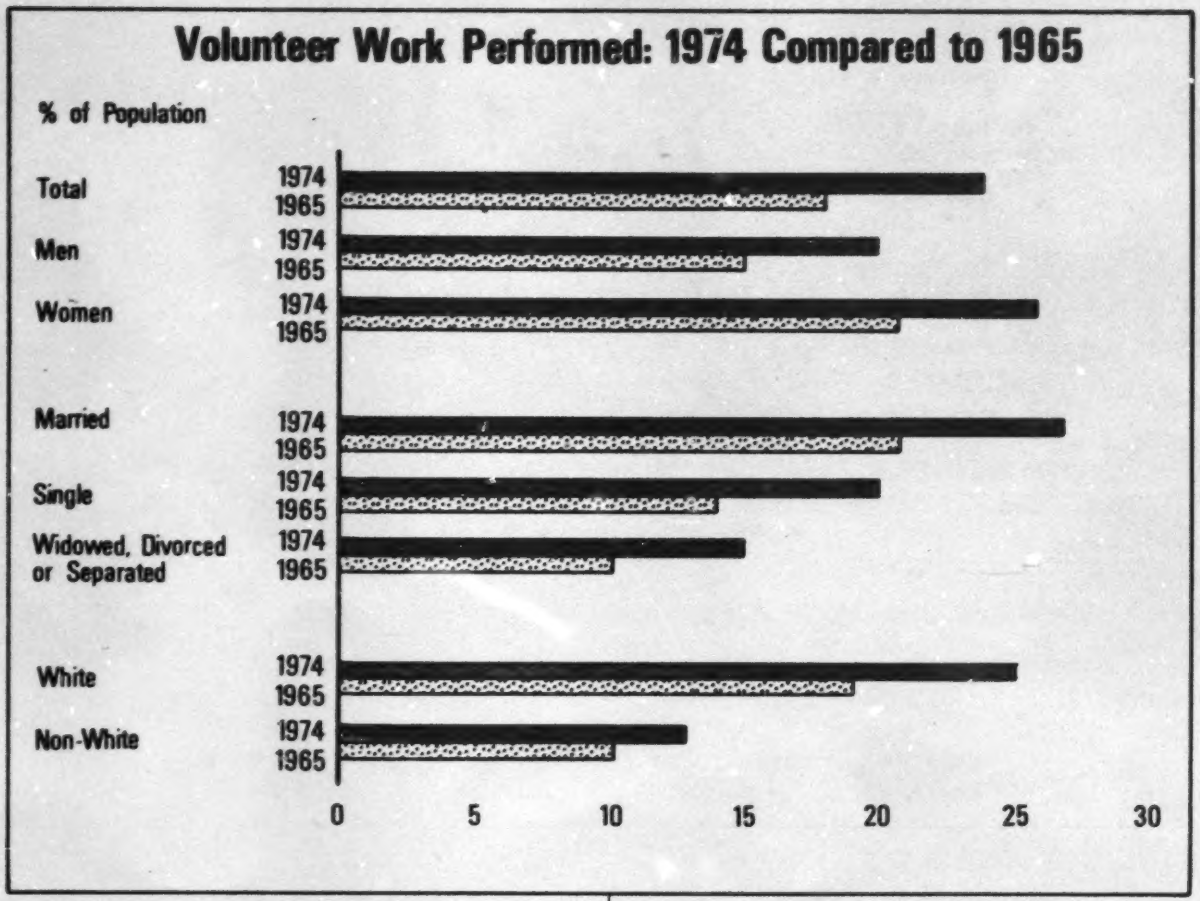
The volunteer participation of whites was 19 percent in 1965 and 25 percent in 1974. Nonwhites showed an increase in their volunteer activities with 10 percent in 1965, compared to 13 percent in 1974.

Who Volunteers

The Census Study divided Americans into six age groups: teen-agers from 14 to 17; young people from 18 to 24; adults from 25 to 44; older adults from 45 to 54; seniors aged 55 to 64; and the elderly, 65 and over.

Those Americans between the ages of 25 to 44 comprised the largest population segment—more than 50 million—and as would be expected, from it come more volunteers than any other group. The people in this age group are in the most productive and busiest years of their lives—parenthood, career plans and social mobility all come together and set the pattern for later life. Yet 30 percent of the people in this age group found time and energy to give.

The middle years of 45 to 54, representing only a ten year spread, provided the second largest rate of volunteering, 25 percent. Teen-agers from 14 to 17, with only a four year span, came third with a 22 percent volunteer rate. The senior group from age 55 to 64, also with a ten year continuum came in fourth at 21 percent. Young adults from 18 to 24 represent a seven year time span and came in fifth with 18 percent. The group with the lowest volunteer rate is the elderly, over 65, of whom only 14 percent of the population volunteered.

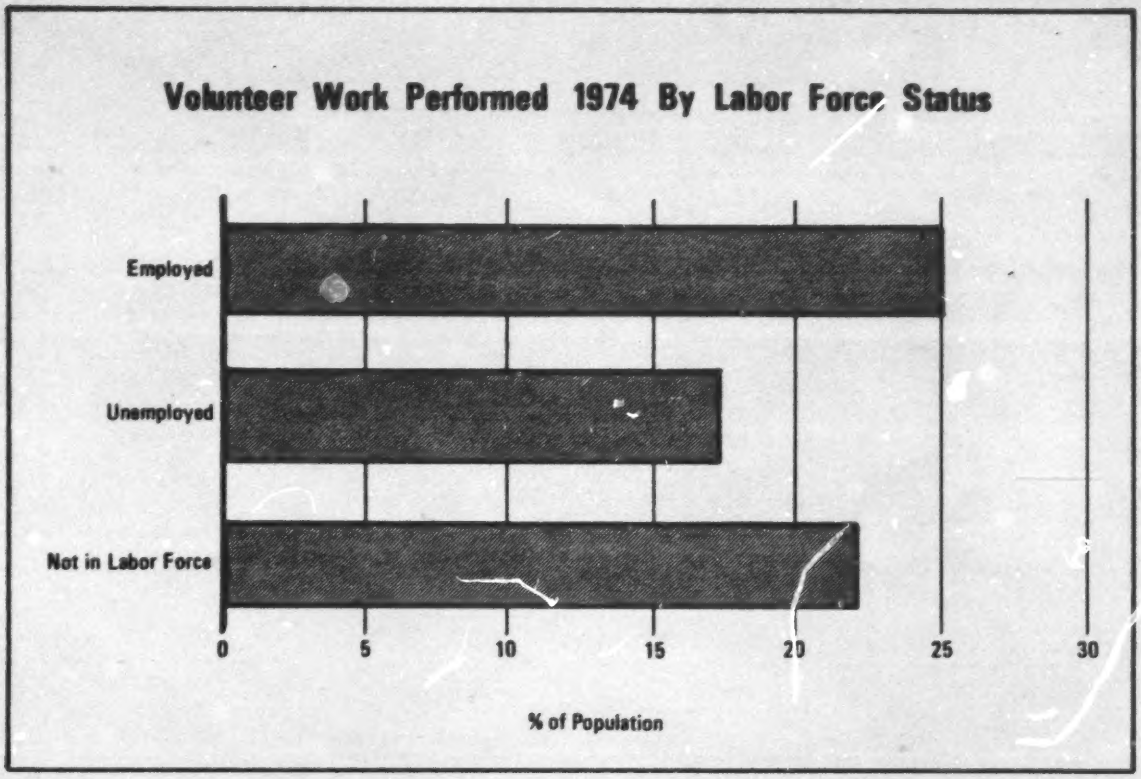


No. 2

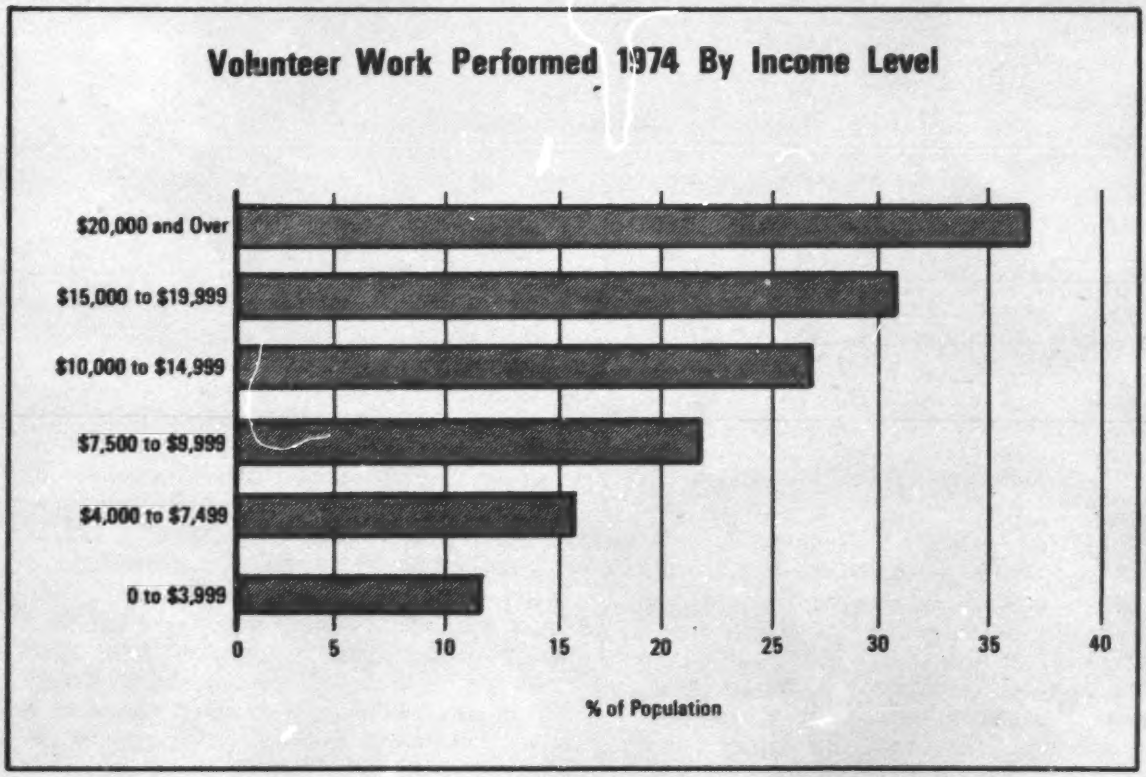
More women volunteer than men: twenty-six percent of the women volunteer and twenty percent of the men do. So, roughly one woman in four does some volunteer work while only one man in five does.

Those who are married are inclined to volunteer more than those never married or widowed, divorced or separated. Twenty-seven percent of the married population, compared to 20 percent for those who never married and 15 percent for those who were married but no longer are.

The rate of volunteering among whites was nearly twice the rate among non-whites. The rates were 25 percent for whites and 13 percent for non-whites. The controlling factor here may be the high correlation between income levels and volunteer rater

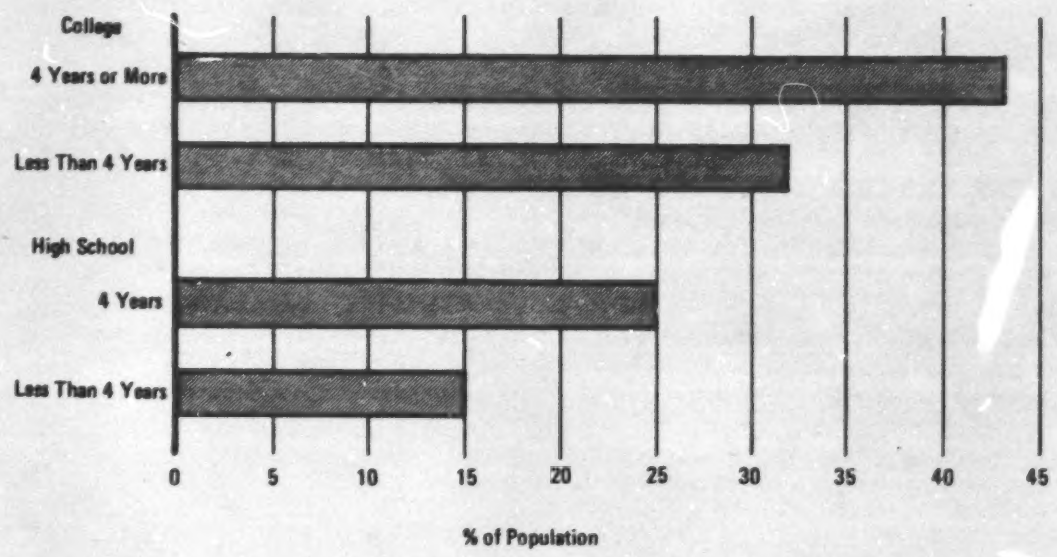

Volunteer Work Performed 1974 By Labor Force Status
Employed
Unemployed
Not in Labor Force
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
% of Population

No. 3


Volunteer Work Performed 1974 By Income Level
$20,000 and Over
$15,000 to $19,999
$10,000 to $14,999
$7,500 to $9,999
$4,000 to $7,499
0 to $3,999
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
% of Population

No. 4
6

Volunteer Work Performed 1974 By Level of Education



No. 5

The Census Survey showed two types of volunteer work where the rate for non-whites was higher than the rate for whites. In the field of religion, 54 percent of all non-white volunteers worked in the area of religion while 50 percent of white volunteers did so. In civic and community action, the comparable figures were 21 percent for non-white and 14 percent for whites.

The survey shows that the more education people have, the higher their rate of voluntarism. For instance, of those Americans who had attended college, those with four years or more volunteered at a rate of 43%, while those with less than four years of college declined to 32 percent. The same pattern holds for secondary school education. Those with four years of high school education volunteered at a rate of 25 percent while those with less than four years had a rate of 15 percent.

Of those people actually employed, 25 percent were volunteers, while among the unemployed 17 percent did volunteer work. Those employed in the public sector—either Federal, state or municipal—volunteered more often than those in the private sector—33 percent for the publicly employed and 23 percent for the privately employed. Of those not in the labor force, defined as not working and not looking for work, 22 percent were volunteers.

The survey shows that the rate of volunteering declined sharply with family income. Americans who earned $20,000 and over volunteered at the rate of 37%. As income declines there is a gradual diminution of voluntarism. For example: in the $15,000 to $20,000 category the rate is 31 percent. The rate is slightly lower in the $10,000 to $15,000 bracket—27 percent. In the $7,500 to $10,000 bracket it was 22 percent. Below it drops even further, to 16 percent for those in the $4,000 to $7,500 level, and 12 percent for those below $4,000 a year. There is a spread of 25 points from those earning $20,000 and over to those earning $4,000 and less. The pattern is that voluntarism declines as income goes down.

The 1965-1974 Trend

Exact correlations between the 1965 and 1974 survey are not always possible because the information was sometimes divided differently from the 1974 survey. However, approximations are possible.

For instance, in the 1965 survey the family income was divided into six units, ranging from a low of under $3,000 to a high of over $15,000.

The volunteer rate in 1965 was 5.6 percent for the lowest income group and increased steadily to a 40.1 percent rate for the highest. The ratio between the highest and lowest rates was 7:1, substantially higher than the comparable 1974 ratio of 3:1.

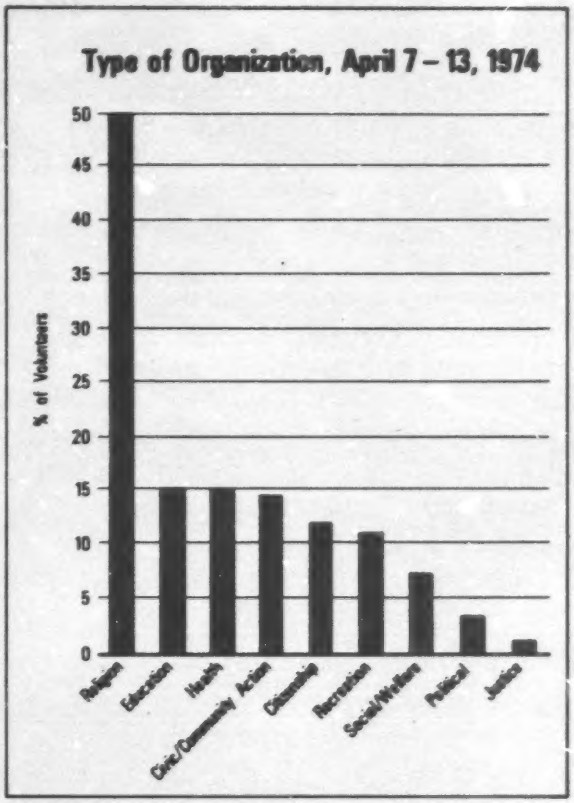
What Volunteers Do

During a week of 1974, April 7 to 13, what type of work volunteers did was examined. Nine designations were looked into: political, civic and community action, social and welfare, recreation, citizenship, justice, education, health and religion. During that week, 15,455,000 Americans volunteered.

Most volunteers, 50 percent, devoted themselves to religion-oriented activities during the week.

After religion, education and health tied for second place with 15 percent of the volunteers each.

In education, the pattern of voluntarism almost follows life's progression. For example, 23 percent of all teen-age volunteers served in the field of education compared to only 3 percent of all volunteers age 65 and over.



No. 6

The educational category shows a direct correlation between a family's need matching a voluntary activity—while a mother has children of school age she will volunteer for the PTA or other educational activities, but as her children get older, she drops voluntary activity in education.

Thus, during child-bearing and child-rearing years, the educational volunteering rate is the highest. In the 18 to 24 year span, it is 20 percent of all volunteers, and in the 25 to 44 years group, 17 percent of the volunteers.

As the volunteer population in the educational organizations gets older and moves into the grandparent category, the number of volunteers recedes. In the 45 to 54 age category, it

falls to 12 percent, and in the 55 to 64 category, only 6 percent. Those volunteers in education who are more than 65 years of age comprise 3 percent of all volunteers in that age group.

Health volunteers follow an opposite pattern from educational volunteers: as the age group gets older, their volunteer rate rises.

For all age groups health volunteers make up 15 percent of all volunteers, but in the 45 to 64 age bracket, their rate rises to 18 percent and over 65 rises to 22 percent.

Fourteen percent of all volunteers aided in civic and community action work which included such concerns as consumerism and environmental activities.

Citizenship activities, described as work with scouting and veteran organizations, accounted for 12 percent.

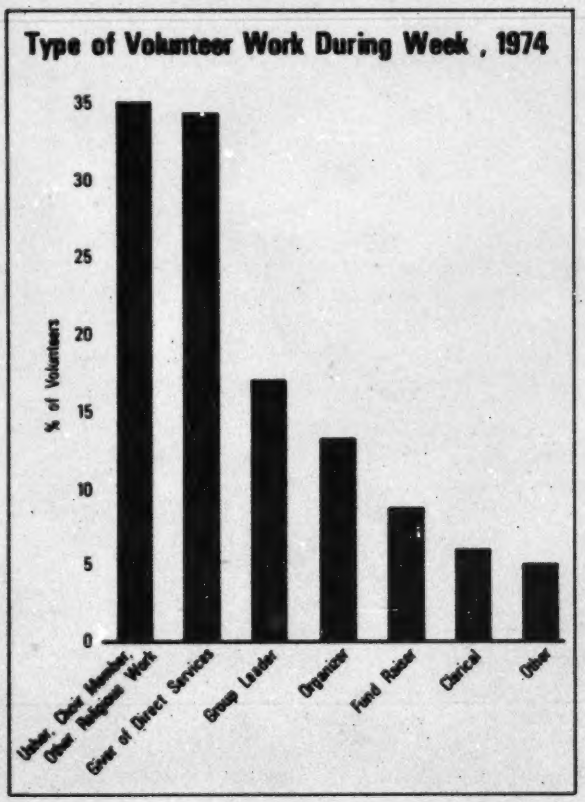
Recreation groups had 11 percent of the volunteers. As would be expected young parents are heavily involved in this work and those between the ages of 25 to 44 years of age had the highest volunteer participation, 14 percent.

Those volunteers who worked in the social and welfare categories, such as persons who worked with the aged and in orphanages, accounted for 7 percent of the volunteer population.

Of the nine categories queried, political and justice had the lowest volunteer participation. Political, which Census explained as fundraisers, pollwatchers and campaign workers, showed three percent of the volunteer population.

Justice organizations were at the bottom of the group, attracting only one percent of the volunteer population. Court helpers and legal aides fit under the Census definition as Justice volunteers.

No. 7



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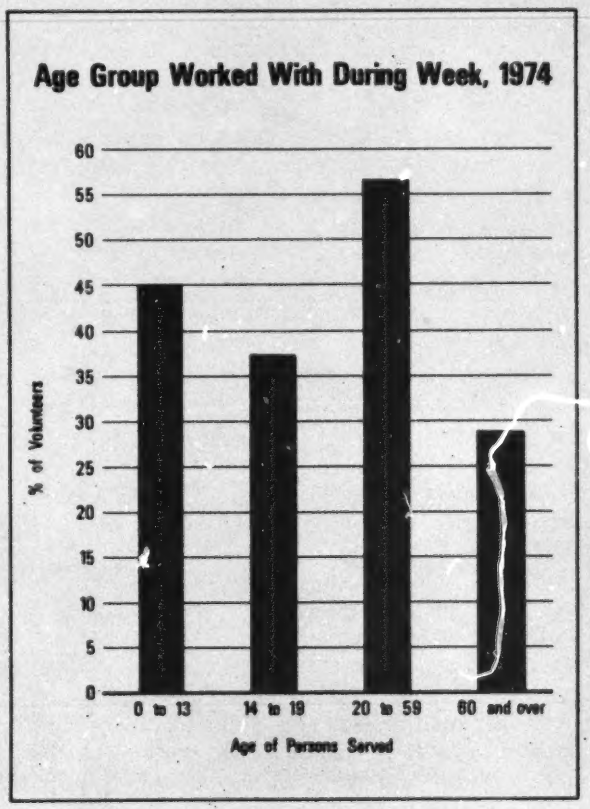


The survey studied the ages of the people with whom the volunteers worked. The ages were broken down into four groups: birth to early teens or, to 13 years of age; teenagers, from 14 to 19; the middle years, from 20 to 59; and the elderly, all of those over 60. Several areas of voluntarism show an emphasis on one particular age group.

Children received most attention in the areas of citizenship and recreation. Nearly two-thirds of all volunteers in these fields worked with persons aged 0-13, while only 45 percent of all volunteers worked with this age group. There was a very small proportion of volunteers working with children in social/welfare activities.

Most activities with teenagers were fairly close to the overall rate of 37 percent of all volunteers. Only two—politics and social welfare activities were substantially below average.

Fifty-seven percent of all volunteers worked with persons in the 20-59 age span. This figure was exceeded in the fields of politics and civic and community action where 90 percent and 80 percent respectively, of the volunteers in those fields could be found. Lowest involvement of volunteers was in citizenship and recreation activities where the figures were 24 percent and 25 percent respectively.

Volunteers working with the elderly showed the greatest variation from the norm. While 29 percent of all volunteers worked with them, the proportion rose to 59 percent in social and welfare activities, and to 41 percent in health. By contrast, only 3 percent of volunteers in education, 5 percent of volunteers in citizenship, and 6 percent of volunteers in recreation served people 65 and over.

The types of work done by the volunteers showed variations from the basic volunteer pattern. For example: the proportion of volunteers in fundraising correlates directly with family income, as might be expected. It does not, however, correlate with educational background. According to the survey, a college graduate is no more apt to be a fundraiser than a high school dropout.

Men make their strongest showing as group leaders and as organizers and planners. While female volunteers generally outnumber men, the survey shows 3 male group leaders for every 5 female group leaders.

Religion

In looking at what volunteers do, one activity—religion—needs a more detailed explanation, for church related volunteers tend to show some variation from the usual pattern.

In 1974, religious-type work accounted for the largest portion of volunteers, 50 percent, during the week of April 7 to 13. It should be mentioned, however, that particular period was the Christian Holy Week, with Sunday, April 7 being Palm Sunday. April 12 was Good Friday and Sunday, April 14 was Easter. Sunday, April 7 was the Jewish Passover.

Other than the size of the congregation which might be larger because of these Holy Days, the high volunteer percentage rate probably could stand since the usual church-related activities such as teaching Sunday School, organ and piano playing, volunteering as altar boys, ushers and church choir singers, to name just a few, take place throughout the year.

The 1974 volunteers who checked off religion as an activity, showed a number of differences which are contrary to the secular volunteer pattern. These differences appeared markedly when income and education were examined.

With *income*, the Census figures showed the lower the yearly earnings, the higher the rate of volunteer participation. This is the direct opposite of what has been found in other categories, where the pattern is the higher the income, the higher the rate of volunteer participation.

Those volunteers in the below $4,000 a year

income level, had a volunteer rate of 58 percent. This rate held steady through the $10,000 income level. Then there was a gradual decline in volunteer participation as income rose, and those Americans earning $20,000 a year or more, showed a rate of 42 percent, a slippage of 16 percentage points.

The level of *education* of volunteers in religious work is the other category that demonstrates the opposite to the conventional volunteer trend. For in the blend of education and religion there was always an inverse ratio to the standard pattern. The survey illustrates, for example, the less education a volunteer has, the higher the percentage rate of volunteer participation. For example, those with less than 4 years of high school had 59 percent rate of volunteering in the fields of religion. Those with 4 years or more of college, had 45 percent.

Age, too, was a factor. While 31 percent of all volunteers age 65 and over did only religious volunteer work, that figure dropped to 12 percent for volunteers in the 25 to 44 age range. Overall it was 18 percent. Similarly, 58 percent of the volunteers age 55 and over did religious volunteer work; only 44 percent of the 18 to 24 year olds and 45 percent of the 25 to 44 year olds did religious volunteer work.

Frequency and Length of Service

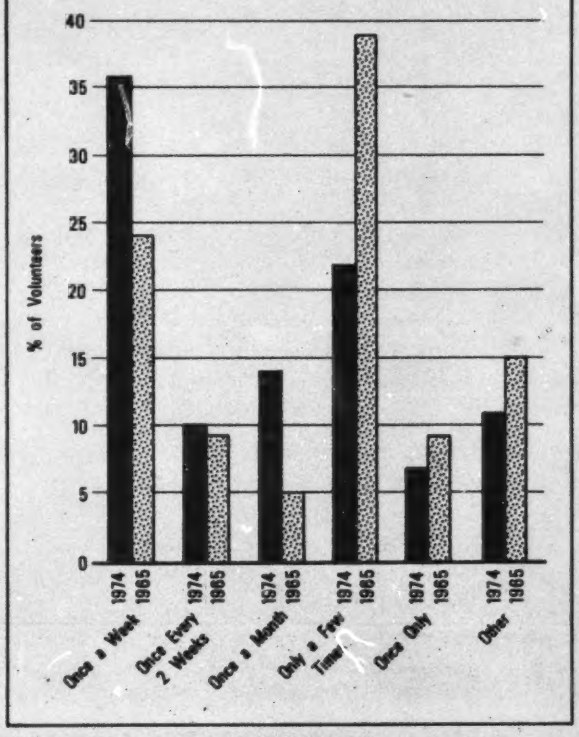
A comparison of the present study with one done in 1965 shows that more volunteers today are working more hours each week. For instance, in the 1965 survey only 54 percent of volunteers reported they worked more than 25 hours per year in their chosen fields, while in 1974 a total of 63 percent said they worked more than 25 hours a year. Another significant fact is that the volunteers in the 1974 survey reported they worked with greater regularity than the earlier group. In 1965 only 24 percent volunteered at least once a week, while in 1974, 36 percent did so.

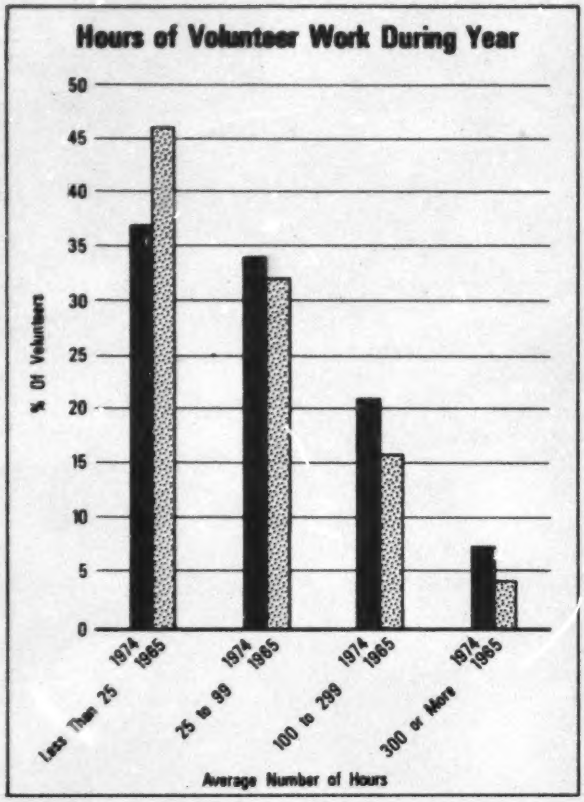
Men contributed longer hours of volunteer work during the week of April 7 to 13, 1974. The average weekly contribution for men was 10 hours; for women it was 8 hours. When the average hourly contribution is multiplied by the total number of volunteers, the result is no significant difference in total volunteer time contributed by men and women. The combined total was 137,000,000 hours for the week. That is the equivalent of 3,430,000 persons serving a 40 hour week.

The pattern seems to be, according to the Survey, that men could work a longer span than women. For example, in the *four to eight hour* category the rate was 20 percent for men and 17 percent for women ; in the *eight through*

No. 9

Frequency of Volunteer Work, 1974 And 1965





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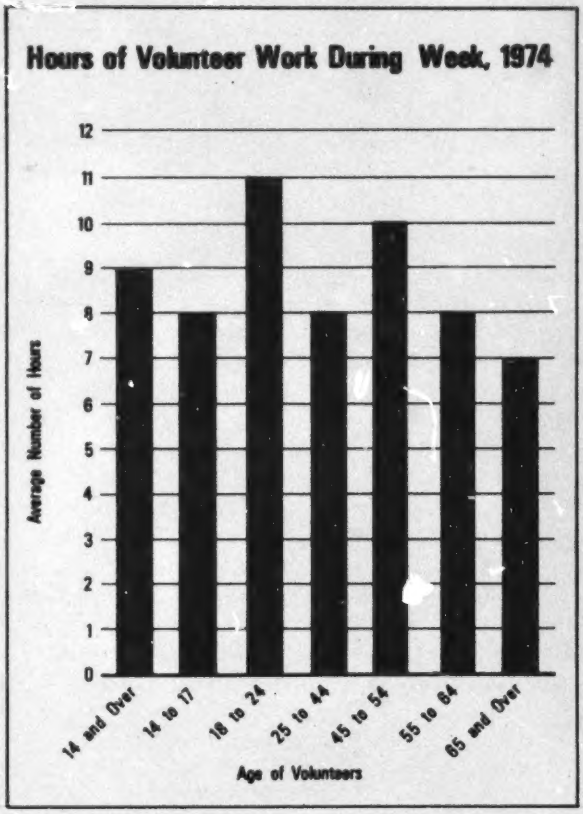


No. 11

14 hour bracket, 11 percent for men and eight percent for women; in the *more than 14 hour* category 10 percent for men and 9 percent for women.

Not to be confused with the overall weekly and yearly hourly figures, the Census Bureau also looked at the *frequency* of volunteer work. In other words, how often did people work?

The same criteria for judging the frequency of volunteer work was used in 1974 as in 1965. The precise question asked by the Census Bureau was how often did you do unpaid volunteer work during the last 12-month period; the respondent was given a choice of:

Once a week
Once every two weeks
Once a month
Only a few times
Only once

The *once a week workers* had 24 percent in 1965 and 36 percent in 1974.

For *once every two weeks* it was 9 percent in 1965 and 10 percent in 1974.

In the *once a month* category, it was 5 percent in 1965 and 14 percent in 1974.

Only a few times had 38 percent in 1965 and dropped to 22 percent in 1974.

Once only volunteers had nine percent in 1965 and seven percent in 1974.

Reasons For Volunteering

In trying to probe further into *why* Americans volunteer, one of the Census questions asked individuals to think back to the first non-religious volunteer work ever performed and their reasons for doing that work. The respondents were given eight reasons to choose from and they were asked to check off any and all that applied. The reasons listed by the Census Bureau were:

—Wanted to help people
—Had a sense of duty
—Could not refuse when asked
—Had a child in the program
—Had nothing else to do

—Enjoy volunteer work
—Hoped would lead to a paying job
— Other

The predominant reply given by volunteers was the need to help another individual—or to use the precise language of the Census questionnaire—*wanted to help other people.* This motivation totaled a high rate of 62 percent for individuals 65 and over, and remained in the over 50 percent range for the rest of the age spectrum—that is everyone from 14 to 65.

The second highest motivation was the enjoyment of the volunteering act itself. In two age categories; teenagers from 14 to 17; and the elderly, over 65 years of age; both had a rate of 46 percent for *enjoyed volunteer work.* Other age groups were close to the 36 percent response among all volunteers.

The third motivation picked was *had a sense of duty.* Seniors, in the 45 to 54 age group had the highest rate with 39 percent. The average rate was 32 percent.

The fourth motivation chosen was *had a child in the program.* Those persons in the 25 to 44 age group had the highest rate of 32 percent and were closely followed by senior adults in the 45 to 54 bracket with 31 percent. Overall, the rate was 22 percent.

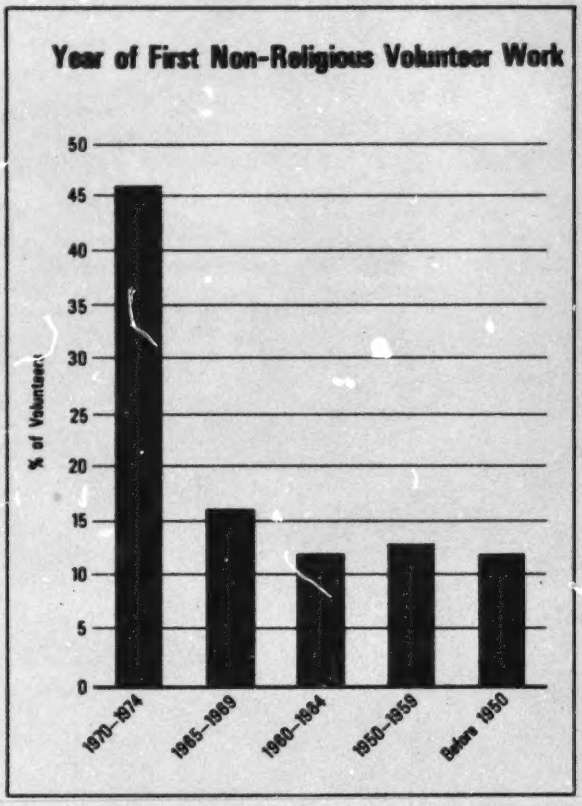
It seems, according to the data, that it was hard for some volunteers to say no. For in the *could not refuse when asked* motivation, nearly all respondents from 14 to 65, stayed at the average rate of 15 percent. This motivation was fifth on the list of choices.

Next was *other,* with 7 percent of the volunteers.

Had nothing else to do came next with a 4 percent rate for all ages.

Hoped would lead to a paying job was the last reason chosen for doing volunteer work. The average rate for all age groups was 3 percent. But the young adults, those from 18 to 24 years of age, scored somewhat higher with a rate of 7 percent.

Four of the reasons were the same in 1965 and 1974. In 1965, *wanted to help people* scored 37 percent, while in 1974 it was 53 percent. *Had a sense of duty* in 1965 had a rate of 33 percent, while a decade later, it was almost even at 32 percent. *Could not refuse when asked* in 1965 had a 6 percent rate, but in 1974 it jumped to 15 percent. *Enjoyed doing volunteer work* for 1965 was 30 percent and in 1974 rose to 36 percent.

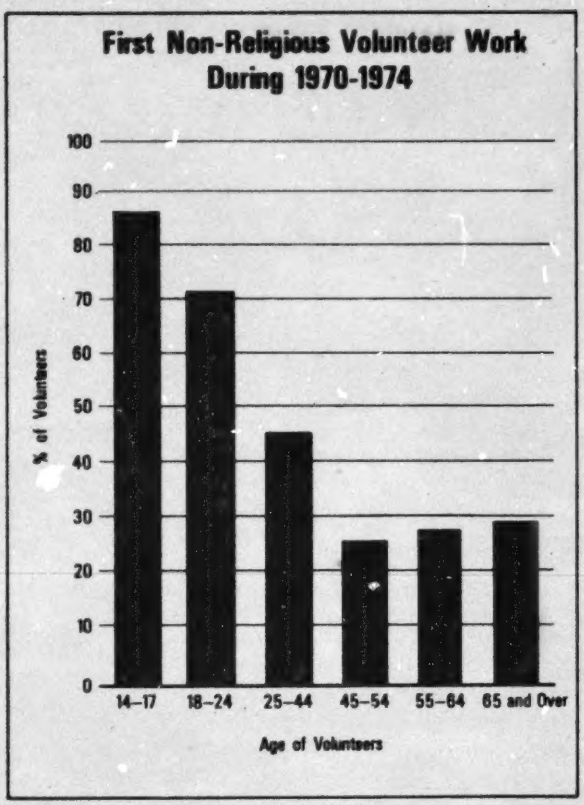


No. 12

The 85 percent of the volunteer population who planned to do volunteer work in the coming year (May 1974 to April 1975) were then asked their reasons for this decision. The three most popular categories each showed increases of 6 or more percentage points. These categories are *helping others, enjoying volunteer work,* and *sense of duty.* Each of the remaining options showed a slight decline as a reason for volunteers to continue to do volunteer work.

Past and Future Volunteers

Individuals who were already involved in voluntarism were asked whether they planned to continue their work during the upcoming year. In other words, were they going to stay within the volunteer fold? Were they motivated enough to keep donating their time? Fifteen percent said they *were not* going to continue.



No. 13

Those volunteers who replied negatively were given a choice of eight reasons they could check off for not wanting to continue. The reasons were:

The project ended
Got a paying job
Moved away
Child no longer in program
Nothing useful to do
No personal rewards
Poor supervision
Other

The response, *poor supervision*, had the lowest rate, only 1 percent. Perhaps this represents a personal accolade to supervisors of volunteers because it is doubtful any other activity would have so few complaints.

No personal rewards had a rate of 2 percent, demonstrating that this feature of voluntarism is evidently well administered by volunteer leaders.

Four percent complained they had *nothing useful to do.*

Five percent dropped out because they *no longer had a child in the program*, again showing a personal approach of discarding what is no longer useful to the volunteer himself or to his family.

A rate of nine percent for persons who stopped their volunteer work because they *moved away* is not surprising. According to the 1970 Census study, as reported by E. J. Kahn, Jr. in *The American People*, 20 percent of all Americans move every year.

Thirteen percent dropped out because they *had gotten a paying job.* For women, this drop-out rate was 16 percent and for women aged 25-54, it was 19 percent.

And for the highest rate of all, 20 percent, *the project ended.* This rate was most pronounced for teenagers, where 32% of the 14-17 year-old volunteers stopped doing volunteer work because the project ended. The *other* category, at 54 percent, included a variety of reasons, primarily *too busy, not enough time, lost*

interest, and *poor health*.

The lesson here, for organizations interested in retaining volunteers, is that they are doing a good job on supervision and recognition of volunteers. If they want more volunteers, they could pay special attention to people moving into the community and to those about to complete project assignments.

Those individuals who *were not* on the volunteer roster, were asked if during the preceding year they had considered doing volunteer work. Over seven million—six percent—replied in the affirmative, saying they would contribute their time, energy and labor to a volunteer job.

These seven million individuals were asked what kind of volunteer work they would consider doing and 32 percent wrote in health. Religion came in second with 11 percent, with recreation and social/welfare programs tied for third place.

The respondents were asked to check off their reasons for choosing not to volunteer. They were given the following reasons to choose from:

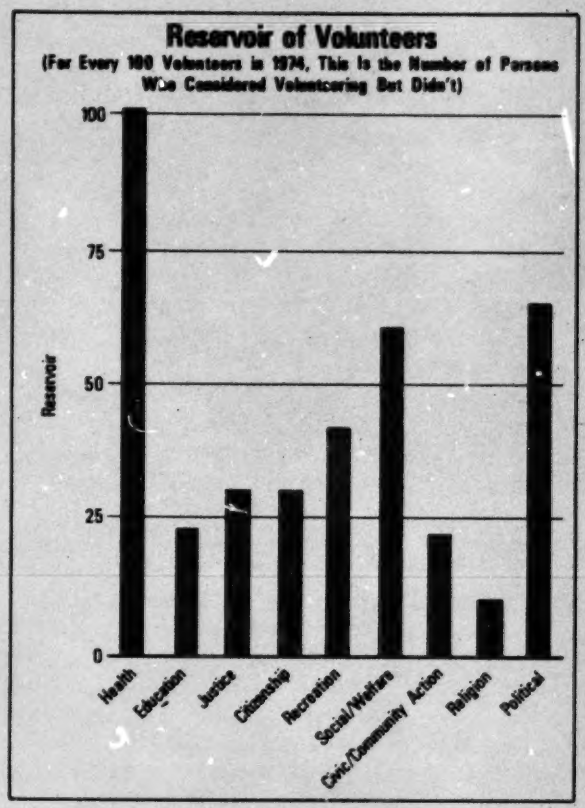
Became too busy with other activities
Had to take care of children
Lost interest
Transportation costs
Moved away
No payment for work
Other

Forty-four percent of all volunteers chose *became too busy with other activities* as their reason. This category includes such reasons as conflict with job, school and family responsibilities.

The reason *had to take care of children* had a rate of 12 percent, with those in the adult age group of 25 to 44 having the highest rate of 20 percent.

The *lost interest* category scored a rate of 5 percent for all groups; however, teenagers, from 14 to 17, had the highest rate of 9 percent.

The *transportation costs too high* had an



No. 14

average rate of four percent, and again teenagers scored highest with a 9 percent.

Moved out of the area had an average rate of three percent for all age groups, with those 45 to 54 rising to six percent. Only two percent declined to volunteer because there was *no payment for the work*. Of the 42 percent who listed other, *too busy, not enough time*, and *lack of contact* were the primary reasons.

The largest potential reservoir of vounteers is to be found among the 112,500,000 persons who had neither volunteered nor considered volunteering during the year ending in April, 1974. This figure is 72 percent of the over 13 population.

Appendix A

Survey Methods and Reliability

Source of data. The estimates are based on data obtained in April of 1974 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The sample is spread over 461 areas comprising 923 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 47,000 occupied households are eligible for interview each month. Of this number 2000 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 47,000, there are also about 8000 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed. The above information applies to the total CPS monthly sample. The estimates for Volunteer Work were based on a quarter of the total CPS sample for April.*

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1970 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimates. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting, as well as being subject to sampling variability.

TABLE A: STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS, APRIL 1974

(68 chances out of 100)
All Numbers in Thousands

Size of Estimate	Standard Error
50	18
100	25
200	35
300	43
500	56
700	66
1,000	79
2,000	111
3,000	135
5,000	174
7,000	204
10,000	241
15,000	291
20,000	329
25,000	362
30,000	388
35,000	411
37,000	419
40,000	430
50,000	460
75,000	498
100,000	474
125,000	396
150,000	196

* For the Volunteer Survey, the number of valid interviews was 23,731 out of a possible 24,796. Thus, the actual interview rate was 95.7%.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of certain response and enumeration errors, but it does not measure, as such, any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The figures presented in tables A and B are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates shown. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standards errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item. Table A contains the standard errors of estimated numbers.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. Table B. contains the standard errors of estimated percentages.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. For the year ending in April 1974, there were a total of 36,812,000 Volunteer Workers. Table A shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 419,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 419,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have differed from a complete census figure by less than 838,000, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 35,974,000 to 37,650,000. [(36,812,000 ±2 (419,000)]

Of the 516,000 unemployed persons 45-54 years old in the civilian noninstitutional population for the year ending in April 1974, 80,000 or approximately 15.5 percent did some form

TABLE B: STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated Percentage	Base of Percentage (In Thousands)															
	250	500	750	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	37,000	50,000	75,000	100,000	125,000	150,000
1 or 99	1.6	1.1	.9	.8	.5	.4	.2	.2	.2	.15	.13	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06
2 or 98	2.2	1.6	1.3	1.1	.7	.5	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.15	.11	.10	.09
5 or 95	3.4	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.1	.8	.5	.3	.3	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.14
10 or 90	4.7	3.3	2.7	2.4	1.5	1.1	.7	.5	.4	.4	.4	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2
25 or 75	6.8	4.8	3.9	3.4	2.2	1.5	1.1	.7	.6	.6	.6	.5	.4	.3	.3	.3
50	7.9	5.6	4.6	3.9	2.5	1.8	1.2	.8	.7	.7	.6	.6	.5	.4	.4	.3

of Volunteer Work. Table B shows the standard error of 15.5 percent on a base of 516,000 to be approximately 3.8 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 15.5 percent would be within 3.8 percentage points of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 7.6 percentage points of a census figure; i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 7.9 to 23.1 percent.

Standard error of a difference. For a difference between two sample estimates, the standard error is approximately equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard error of each estimate considered separately. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate the true standard error.

Illustration of the computation of the standard error of a difference. In this same year there were 24,584,000 males 25 to 44 years old in the civilian, noninstitutional population of which 6,367,000 or 25.9 percent were volunteer workers. There were 26,407,000 females 25 to 44 years old in the same population of which 9,173,000 or 34.7 percent were volunteer workers. Thus, the apparent difference in the proportions of these two groups who were volunteer workers is 8.8 percent. Table B shows the standard errors on both 25.9 percent and 34.7 percent to be about 0.7 percent. The standard error of the estimated difference of 8.8 percent is about $1.0 = \sqrt{(.7)^2 + (.7)^2}$. This means the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated difference based on the samples would differ from the change derived using complete census figures by less than 1.0 percent. The 68 percent confidence interval around the 8.8 percent change is from 7.8 to 9.8, i.e., 8.8 ± 1.0. A conclusion that the average estimate of the change derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. The 95 percent confidence interval is 6.8 to 10.8 and thus we can conclude with 95 percent confidence that the proportion of males doing volunteer work is less than the proportion of females doing volunteer work.

Appendix B

O.M.B. No. 41-S74003; Approval Expires September 30, 1974

FORM CPS-631 (1-30-74)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADMIN.
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

SURVEY OF VOLUNTEER WORK
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY
April 1974

NOTICE – All information which would permit identification of the individual will be held in strict confidence, and will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey. The information will not be disclosed or released to others for any purposes.

Dear

ACTION, the Federal agency which coodinates domestic and international volunteer programs sponsored by the U.S. Government, has asked the Bureau of the Census to obtain information about the unpaid volunteer activities of our population. The information gathered by this study will provide a measure of the extent of volunteer work and the kinds of services it provides.

Please complete the questions inside this form and return it within FIVE DAYS in the enclosed preaddressed envelope. Please notice that some of the questions should be completed even though you may never have performed any unpaid volunteer work. Since this study is based upon a scientific sample of the total population, it is important that each person return a completed questionnaire.

The Bureau of the Census treats as confidential all the information you provide. The results of this voluntary survey will be issued only in the form of statistical totals from which no individual can be identified.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Vincent P Barabba

VINCENT P. BARABBA
Director
Bureau of the Census

Enclosure

CENSUS USE ONLY

a. Interviewer code	b. CC 6	c. CC 13	d. CC 18	e. CC 20	f. CC	g. At sample address	h. FF	i. NR
				1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐	1 ☐ 2 ☐	1 ☐ YES 2 ☐ NO		

19

The following are EXAMPLES of types of organizations which use the services of unpaid volunteer workers.

- Hospitals, clinics and other health groups
- Education programs
- Legal services
- Scouting and other youth programs
- Recreation programs
- Religious groups
- Social and welfare groups
- Civic and community groups
- Political groups

1. During the last 12 months, from May 1973 through April 1974, have you done ANY UNPAID volunteer work for a group such as those listed above or for any other type of organization?

(001)
1 ☐ Yes – *GO to question 2*
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to question 9 on page 3*

2. About how often did you do unpaid volunteer work during this 12-month period?

(002)
1 ☐ Once a week
2 ☐ Once every 2 weeks
3 ☐ Once a month
4 ☐ Only a few times
5 ☐ Once only
6 ☐ Other – *Specify*

3. About how many hours of unpaid volunteer work did you do during this 12-month period?

(003)
1 ☐ Less than 25 hours
2 ☐ 25–99 hours
3 ☐ 100–299 hours
4 ☐ 300 hours or more – *Enter approximate number*

_____ Hours

4a. Please think back to the first non-religious volunteer work you ever did. What were your reasons for doing volunteer work at that time?
(Mark all that apply)

(004)
0 ☐ Have performed only religious volunteer work – *SKIP to question 5*
1 ☐ Wanted to help people
2 ☐ Had a sense of duty
3 ☐ Could not refuse when asked
4 Had a child in the program
5 Had nothing else to do
(005)
6 Enjoyed volunteer work
7 Hoped it would lead to a paying job
8 Other – *Specify*

b. In what year was that?

(006)
1 1970–1974
2 1965–1969
3 1960–1964
4 1950–1959
5 Before 1950

5. Do you plan to do any volunteer work during the next 12 months?

(007)
1 Yes – *GO to question 6*
2 No – *SKIP to question 7*

6. What are your reasons for continuing to do volunteer work? *(Mark all that apply)*

(008) *
1 ☐ Want to help people
2 ☐ Sense of duty
3 ☐ Cannot refuse when asked
4 ☐ Have a child in the program
5 ☐ Nothing else to do
6 ☐ Enjoy volunteer work
(009) *
7 ☐ Hope it will lead to a paying job
8 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

SKIP to question 8

7. What are your reasons for NOT continuing to do volunteer work? *(Mark all that apply)*

(010) *
1 ☐ Project ended
2 ☐ Nothing useful to do
3 ☐ Poor supervision
4 ☐ No personal rewards
5 ☐ Child no longer in program
6 ☐ Got a paying job
(011) *
7 ☐ Moved away
8 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

8. Did you do ANY UNPAID volunteer work during the WEEK of April 7–13, 1974?

(012)
1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to questions 13–16 on page 4*
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 12*

9. During the last 12 months, did you CONSIDER doing any type of unpaid volunteer work?

(013)
1 ☐ Yes – *GO to question 10*
2 ☐ No – *END OF QUESTIONS – Please return questionnaire in the preaddressed envelope provided*

10. What type of volunteer work did you consider doing?

(014) _____

11. What were your reasons for not doing that work? *(Mark all that apply)*

(015) *
1 ☐ Had to take care of my children
2 ☐ Transportation costs too high
3 ☐ Moved out of the area
4 ☐ Lost interest in the project
5 ☐ Became too busy with other activities
6 ☐ No payment for the work
(016)
7 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

12. This completes the questionnaire. Please put the form in the preaddressed envelope provided and mail it to us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

(017)
(018)
(019)
(020)
(021)
(022)
(023)

21

Complete questions 13–16 below for UNPAID volunteer work performed during the WEEK of April 7–13, 1974.

13. What type of organization did you work for? *(Mark "Yes" or "No" for each category below and answer questions 14–16 for each group you did work for.*		14. How many hours did you work?	15. What kind of work did you do? (For example: hospital aide, teacher's aide, clerical, fundraiser, organizer and planner, etc.)	16. What age group(s) did you usually work with? *(Mark all that apply for each activity)*
a. **HEALTH** (hospitals, mental health clinics, March of Dimes, other health drives, etc.)	(024) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(025)	(026)	(027) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
b. **EDUCATION** (teacher's aides, tutors, etc.)	(028) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(029)	(030)	(031) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
c. **JUSTICE** (court volunteers, legal aides, etc.)	(032) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(033)	(034)	(035) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
d. **CITIZENSHIP** (scout leader, VFW officer, etc.)	(036) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(037)	(038)	(039) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
e. **RECREATION** (activity leaders, little league coaches, etc.)	(040) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(041)	(042)	(043) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
f. **SOCIAL AND WELFARE** (home for the aged, orphanages, etc.)	(044) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(045)	(046)	(047) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
g. **CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ACTION** (consumer groups, environmental, protection, etc.)	(048) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(049)	(050)	(051) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
h. **RELIGIOUS** (usher, choir, Sunday school teacher, etc.)	(052) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(053)	(054)	(055) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
i. **POLITICAL** (fundraiser, pollwatcher, campaign worker, etc.)	(056) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(057)	(058)	(059) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+
j. **OTHER** – *Specify*	(060) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(061)	(062)	(063) 1 ☐ Age 0–13 3 ☐ Age 20–59 * 2 ☐ Age 14–19 4 ☐ Age 60+

This completes the questionnaire. Please put the form in the preaddressed envelope provided and mail it to us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Appendix C
Survey Tables

Table 1. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period May 1973—April 1974 by demographic characteristics
Table 2. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period May 1973—April 1974, by age
Table 3. Frequency of volunteer work in the period May 1973 to April 1974
Table 4. Hours of volunteer work in the period May 1973 to April 1974
Table 5. Number and proportion of volunteers who did only religious work, by age
Table 6. Year of first non-religious volunteer work, by age and by year
Table 7. Respondents' reasons for doing their first non-religious volunteer work, by age
Table 8. Proportion of volunteers who plan to do any volunteer work in the period May 1974 to April 1975, by age
Table 9. Reasons for continuing to do volunteer work in the period May 1974 to April 1975, by age
Table 10. Reasons for not continuing to do volunteer work, by age
Table 11. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period April 7-13, 1974, by demographic characteristics
Table 12. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period April 7-13, by age
Table 13. Proportion of respondents not doing volunteer work who considered doing volunteer work during the period May 1973 to April 1974, by demographic characteristics
Table 14. Proportion of respondents not doing volunteer work who considered doing volunteer work during the period May 1973 to April 1974, by age
Table 15. Type of volunteer work considered by respondents not doing volunteer work, by age
Table 16. Reasons for not doing volunteer work during the period May 1973 to April 1974, by age
Table 17. Type of organization for which volunteer work done during period April 7 thru 13, 1974, by age
Table 18. Hours of volunteer work done during the period April 7-13, 1974, by age
Table 19. Type of volunteer work done during the period April 7-13, 1974, by age
Table 20. Age group of people with whom volunteers worked during the period April 7-13, 1974
Table 21. Sex of volunteers by other demographic characteristics from May 1973 to April 1974
Table 22. Sex of volunteers by age from May 1973 to April 1974
Table 23. Hours of volunteer work during period April 7-13, by type of volunteer work
Table 24. Type of volunteer work done during the period April 7-13 by type of organization worked for
Table 25. Age group of people with whom volunteers worked, April 7-13, 1974, by type of organization
Table 26. Hours of volunteer work during period April 7-13, 1974 by type of organization

Table 1. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period May 1973—April 1974, by demographic characteristics

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	Total		Did volunteer work			
			Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex (total)	156,446	100	36,812	24	119,634	76
Male	74,085	100	15,100	20	58,985	80
Female	82,361	100	21,712	26	60,649	74
Marital Status						
Married, spouse present	94,803	100	25,520	27	69,283	73
Never married	39,893	100	7,966	20	31,927	80
Other marital status	21,750	100	3,337	15	18,414	85
Color						
White	133,051	100	34,380	25	103,672	75
Non-white	18,395	100	2,433	13	15,962	87
Employment Status						
Employed	87,967	100	21,841	25	66,125	75
Public sector	14,600	100	4,874	33	9,726	67
Private sector	73,367	100	16,968	23	56,399	77
Unemployed	5,031	100	853	17	4,178	83
Not in labor force	63,448	100	14,117	22	49,331	78
Educational Background						
Less than 4 years high school	66,510	100	9,682	15	56,825	85
4 years high school	51,693	100	12,974	25	38,719	75
College, less than 4 years	20,612	100	6,537	32	14,075	68
College, 4 years or more	17,632	100	7,620	43	10,012	57
Family Income						
0-$3,999	17,882	100	2,189	12	15,643	88
$4,000-$7,499	23,445	100	3,837	16	19,608	84
$7,500-$9,999	15,183	100	3,378	22	11,805	78
$10,000-$14,999	33,652	100	9,072	27	24,580	73
$15,000-$19,999	17,440	100	5,337	31	12,104	69
$20,000 and over	17,920	100	6,649	37	11,271	63
Not available	30,973	100	6,349	20	24,624	80

Table 2. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period May 1973—April 1974, by age

(Numbers in thousands)

Age			Did volunteer work			
			Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total—All ages	156,446	100	36,812	24	119,634	76
14 to 17 years	16,675	100	3,747	22	12,928	78
18 to 24 years	25,220	100	4,641	18	20,579	82
25 to 44 years	50,991	100	15,540	30	35,451	70
45 to 54 years	23,578	100	5,919	25	17,659	75
55 to 64 years	19,236	100	4,010	21	15,227	79
65 years and over	20,645	100	2,955	14	17,690	86

Table 3. Frequency of volunteer work in the period May 1973 to April 1974

(By age; percent distribution)

Age	Once a week	Once every 2 weeks	Once a month	Only a few times	Once only	Other
Total	26	10	14	22	7	11
14 to 17 years	29	7	10	31	10	12
18 to 24 years	24	9	9	23	11	14
25 to 44 years	27	10	14	21	9	11
45 to 54 years	25	12	15	20	8	9
55 to 64 years	26	9	19	20	8	8
65 years and over	35	12	19	13	7	8

Table 4. Hours of volunteer work during the period May 1973 to April 1974

By age (percent distribution)

Age	Less than 25 hours	25–99 hours	100–299 hours	300 hours or more
Total	37%	34%	21%	7%
14 to 17 years	50	31	15	3
18 to 24 years	43	33	18	6
25 to 44 years	35	35	22	8
45 to 54 years	33	35	24	8
55 to 64 years	36	34	22	8
65 years and over	33	35	20	11

Table 5. Number and proportion of volunteers who did only religious work, by age

Age	Number (In thousands)	Percent of volunteers
Total	6,507	13
14 to 17 years	787	21
18 to 24 years	839	13
25 to 44 years	1,929	12
45 to 54 years	992	17
55 to 64 years	966	25
65 years and over	913	31

Table 6. Year of first non-religious volunteer work, by age and by year

(Percent distribution)

Age	1970–1974	1965–1969	1960–1964	1950–1959	Before 1950
Total	46	16	12	13	12
14 to 17 years	80	10	1	—	—
18 to 24 years	71	21	4	2	—
25 to 44 years	45	19	17	14	4
45 to 54 years	25	11	14	23	26
55 to 64 years	27	10	6	19	36
65 years and over	29	10	7	8	43

Table 7. Respondents' reasons for doing their first non-religious volunteer work, by age

Age	Wanted to help people	Had a sense of duty	Could not refuse when asked	Had a child in program	Had nothing else to do	Enjoyed volunteer work	Hoped would lead to pay job
Total	53%	32%	15%	22%	4%	36%	3%
14 to 17 years	55	24	14	1	10	46	6
18 to 24 years	58	24	13	3	6	40	7
25 to 44 years	51	32	15	32	2	33	2
45 to 54 years	51	39	14	31	2	34	1
55 to 64 years	54	36	15	18	2	33	1
65 years and over	62	34	15	8	5	46	—

Table 8. Proportion of volunteers who plan to do any volunteer work in the period May 1974 to April 1975, by age

Age	Percent	Number (In thousands)
Total	85%	31,131
14 to 17 years	85	3,193
18 to 24 years	77	3,556
25 to 44 years	86	13,330
45 to 54 years	88	5,211
55 to 64 years	85	3,405
65 years and over	82	2,436

Table 9. Reasons for continuing to do volunteer work in the period May 1974 to April 1975, by age

(Percent distribution)

Age	Wanted to help people	Had a sense of duty	Could not refuse when asked	Had a child in program	Had nothing else to do	Enjoyed volunteer work	Hoped would lead to pay job	Other
Total	60%	38%	11%	16%	2%	49%	2%	6%
14 to 17 years	61	26	12	1	8	58	9	7
18 to 24 years	65	30	10	4	2	54	6	9
25 to 44 years	57	40	12	30	1	45	1	6
45 to 54 years	60	44	11	13	1	47	1	5
55 to 64 years	61	43	13	5	2	51	—	3
65 years and over	65	37	9	1	6	57	—	7

Table 10. Reasons for not continuing to do volunteer work, by age

(Percent distribution)

Age	Project ended	Nothing useful to do	Poor supervision	No personal rewards	Child no longer in program	Got a paying job	Moved away	Other*
Total	20%	4%	1%	2%	5%	13%	9%	54%
14 to 17 years	32	6	1	3	—	15	5	45
18 to 24 years	23	6	1	3	1	20	17	44
25 to 44 years	20	2	2	2	9	14	8	53
45 to 54 years	18	3	—	3	9	14	2	35
55 to 64 years	11	3	—	2	4	7	7	72
65 years and over	15	5	—	1	—	—	9	75

* A review of a sample of "Other" responses gave these results:

Too busy, not enough time	24%
Lost interest	8
Health, age	7
Looking for paying job	2
Other	13
Total	54%

Table 11. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period April 7-13, 1974, by demographic characteristics

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	Total		Did volunteer work April 7-13, 1974			
			Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex (total)	36,812	100%	15,455	42%	21,358	58%
Male	15,100	100	6,845	45	8,256	55
Female	21,712	100	8,610	40	13,102	60
Marital Status						
Married, spouse present	25,530	100	11,062	43	14,467	57
Never married	7,956	100	3,119	39	4,837	61
Other marital status	3,327	100	1,273	38	2,053	62
Color						
White	34,280	100	14,537	42	19,842	58
Non-white	2,433	100	917	38	1,515	62
Employment Status						
Employed	21,842	100	9,338	43	12,504	57
Public sector	4,874	100	2,068	42	2,806	58
Private sector	16,968	100	7,270	43	9,698	57
Unemployed	853	100	254	30	599	70
Not in labor force	14,117	100	5,862	42	8,255	58
Educational Background						
Less than 4 years high school	9,682	100	3,824	40	5,857	60
4 years high school	12,974	100	5,454	42	7,520	58
College, less than 4 years	6,537	100	2,782	43	3,755	57
College, 4 years or more	7,620	100	3,394	45	4,225	55
Family Income						
0-$3,999	2,189	100	818	37	1,371	63
$4,000-$7,499	3,837	100	1,390	36	2,447	64
$7,500-$9,999	3,378	100	1,325	39	2,053	61
$10,000-$14,999	9,072	100	3,894	43	5,178	57
$15,000-$19,999	5,337	100	2,388	45	2,949	55
$20,000 and over	6,649	100	2,910	44	3,739	56
Not available	6,349	100	2,730	43	3,620	57

Table 12. Proportion of respondents doing volunteer work in the period April 7-13, by age

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	Total		Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	36,812	100%	15,455	42%	21,358	58%
14 to 17 years	3,747	100	1,495	40	2,252	60
18 to 24 years	4,641	100	1,532	33	3,109	67
25 to 44 years	15,540	100	6,762	44	8,778	56
45 to 54 years	5,919	100	2,646	45	3,273	55
55 to 64 years	4,010	100	1,703	42	2,307	58
65 years and over	2,955	100	1,317	45	1,639	55

Table 13. Proportion of respondents not doing volunteer work who considered doing volunteer work during the period May 1973 to April 1974, by demographic characteristics

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	Total		Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex (total)	119,634	100%	7,106	6%	112,529	94%
Male	58,985	100	2,527	4	56,458	96
Female	60,649	100	4,579	8	56,070	92
Marital Status						
Married, spouse present	69,283	100	4,008	6	65,276	94
Never married	31,937	100	2,198	7	29,739	93
Other marital status	18,414	100	900	5	17,514	95
Color						
White	103,672	100	6,311	6	97,361	94
Non-white	15,962	100	795	5	15,168	95
Employment Status						
Employed	66,125	100	4,276	6	61,849	94
Public sector	9,726	100	799	8	8,926	92
Private sector	56,399	100	3,477	6	52,922	94
Unemployed	4,178	100	354	8	3,824	92
Not in labor force	49,331	100	2,476	5	46,856	95
Educational Background						
Less than 4 years high school	56,828	100	1,987	3	54,841	97
4 years high school	38,719	100	2,609	7	36,110	93
College, less than 4 years	14,075	100	1,520	11	12,555	89
College, 4 years or more	10,012	100	990	10	9,022	90
Family Income						
0-$3,999	15,643	100	621	4	15,023	96
$4,000-$7,499	19,608	100	1,124	6	18,484	94
$7,500-$9,999	11,805	100	723	6	11,081	94
$10,000-$14,999	24,580	100	1,667	7	22,913	93
$15,000-$19,999	12,104	100	938	8	11,165	92
$20,000 or more	11,271	100	952	8	10,319	92
Not available	24,624	100	1080	4	23,544	96

Table 14. Proportion of respondents not doing volunteer work who considered doing volunteer work during the period May 1973 to April 1974, by age

Age	Total		Yes		No	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	119,634	100%	7,106	6%	112,529	94%
14 to 17 years	12,928	100	805	6	12,123	94
18 to 24 years	20,679	100	1,841	9	18,839	91
25 to 44 years	35,451	100	2,843	8	32,609	92
45 to 54 years	17,659	100	697	4	16,962	96
55 to 64 years	15,227	100	801	4	14,426	96
65 years and over	17,690	100	319	2	17,371	98

Table 15. Type of volunteer work considered by respondents not doing volunteer work, by age

(Percent distribution)

Age	Health	Education	Justice	Citizenship	Recreation	Social/ Welfare	Civic/ Com. Action	Religious	Political	Other
Total	32%	7%	1%	8%	10%	10%	7%	11%	4%	9%
14 to 17 years	46	9	—	4	10	4	10	7	1	9
18 to 24 years	28	9	1	4	16	10	8	10	6	7
25 to 44 years	27	9	—	14	10	9	6	11	4	9
45 to 54 years	33	2	—	6	7	12	7	17	6	11
55 to 64 years	41	2	1	2	1	18	3	10	1	11
65 years and over	43	—	—	2	2	9	4	24	4	10

Table 16. Reasons for not doing volunteer work during the period May 1973 to April 1974, by age

(Percent distribution)

Age	Had to take care of children	Transportation cost too high	Moved out of area	Lost interest in project	Became too busy with other things	No payment for work	Other*
Total	12%	4%	3%	5%	44%	2%	42%
14 to 17 years	—	9	1	9	45	2	42
18 to 24 years	8	5	4	7	54	4	34
25 to 44 years	20	2	4	3	44	1	39
45 to 54 years	12	1	6	4	44	1	45
55 to 64 years	3	2	1	2	32	2	64
65 years and over	—	5	4	3	19	—	77

* A review of a sample of "Other" responses gave these results:

Too busy, not enough time	9%
Lack of contact	8
Health, illness, pregnancy	6
Not started yet	3
No transportation	2
Other	14
Total	42%

Table 17. Type of organization for which volunteer work done during period April 7 thru 13, 1974, by age

(Percent distribution)

Age	Health	Education	Justice	Citizenship	Recreation	Social/ Welfare	Civic/ Com. Action	Religious	Political	Other
Total	15%	15%	1%	12%	11%	7%	14%	50%	3%	4%
14 to 17 years	17	23	1	10	10	5	10	54	1	4
18 to 24 years	11	20	1	7	13	8	13	44	2	5
25 to 44 years	11	17	1	17	14	6	16	45	3	3
45 to 54 years	18	12	2	12	11	8	13	54	4	6
55 to 64 years	18	6	1	8	5	9	17	58	2	3
65 years and over	22	3	—	5	3	14	11	58	1	1

Table 18. Hours of volunteer work done during the period April 7-13, 1974, by age

(Percent distribution)

Age	Total	Less than and including 1 hour	1 plus thru 2 hours	2 plus thru 4 hours	4 plus thru 8 hours	8 plus thru 14 hours	More than 14 hours	Not specified	Average no. of hours
Total	100	9%	17%	22%	18%	10%	9%	15%	9%
14 to 17 years	100	13	20	19	19	8	9	13	8
18 to 24 years	100	9	16	21	15	11	15	14	11
25 to 44 years	100	10	17	22	21	9	8	13	8
45 to 54 years	100	5	16	22	18	11	10	17	10
55 to 64 years	100	10	13	23	16	9	10	19	8
65 years and over	100	8	17	24	16	10	7	13	7

Table 19. Type of volunteer work done during the period April 7 thru 13, 1974, by age

(Percent distribution)

Age	Fund raiser	Organizer or planner	Group leader	Giver of direct service	Clerical	Other *
Total	8%	13%	17%	34%	6%	40%
14 to 17 years	12	5	13	41	2	47
18 to 24 years	4	7	18	40	4	40
25 to 44 years	9	14	25	32	5	37
45 to 54 years	9	18	14	32	7	41
55 to 64 years	6	15	6	33	13	38
65 years and over	9	8	3	37	10	45

* A review of sample "Other" responses gave these results:

Religious (usher, choir members, etc.)	35%
Other	5
Total	40%

Table 20. Age groups of people with whom volunteers worked during the period April 7 thru 13, 1974

(Percent distribution)

Age of volunteers	Age of persons served			
	0–13 years	14–19 years	20–59 years	60 and over
Total	45%	37%	57%	29%
14 to 17 years	50	64	35	21
18 to 24 years	47	46	49	20
25 to 44 years	53	33	55	21
45 to 54 years	37	37	67	32
55 to 64 years	32	28	63	46
65 years and over	28	26	61	68

Table 21. Sex of volunteers by other demographic characteristics from May 1973 to April 1974

Characteristics	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Marital Status	36,812	100%	15,100	41%	21,712	59%
Married, spouse present	25,520	100	10,930	43	14,589	57
Never married	7,956	100	3,482	44	4,474	56
Other marital status	3,337	100	688	21	2,649	79
Color						
White	34,380	100	14,166	41	20,214	59
Non-white	2,433	100	935	38	1,498	62
Employment Status						
Employed	21,842	100	12,411	57	9,431	43
Public sector	4,874	100	2,490	51	2,384	49
Private sector	16,968	100	9,921	58	7,047	42
Unemployed	853	100	348	41	505	59
Not in labor force	14,117	100	2,341	17	11,776	83
Educational Background						
Less than 4 years high school	9,682	100	3,778	39	5,904	61
4 years high school	12,974	100	4,447	34	8,527	66
College, less than 4 years	6,537	100	2,764	42	3,773	58
College, 4 years or more	7,620	100	4,111	54	3,509	46
Family Income						
0-$3,999	2,189	100	659	30	1,530	70
$4,000-$7,499	3,837	100	1,439	38	2,398	62
$7,500-$9,999	3,378	100	1,211	36	2,167	64
$10,000-$14,999	9,072	100	3,818	42	5,254	58
$15,000-$19,999	5,337	100	2,345	44	2,992	56
$20,000 plus	6,649	100	3,058	46	3,592	54
Not available	6,349	100	2,571	40	3,779	60

Table 22. Sex of volunteers by age from May 1973 to April 1974

Age	Total		Male		Female	
Total	36,812	100%	15,100	41%	21,712	59%
14 to 17 years	3,747	100	1,453	39	2,295	61
18 to 24 years	4,641	100	2,004	43	2,637	57
25 to 44 years	15,540	100	6,367	41	9,173	59
45 to 54 years	5,919	100	2,607	44	3,312	56
55 to 64 years	4,010	100	1,617	40	2,393	60
65 years and over	2,955	100	1,053	36	1,903	64

Table 23. Hours of volunteer work during the period April 7 thru 13, by type of volunteer work

(Percent distribution)

Volunteer work	Number (In thousands)	Less than and inclu. 1 hour	1 plus thru 2 hours	2 plus thru 4 hours	4 plus thru 8 hours	8 plus thru 14 hours	more than 14 hours	Aver. No.
Total	15,455	13%	22%	26%	18%	9%	8%	9%
Fund raisers	1,288	12	17	22	15	8	6	6
Organizer or planner	1,943	7	16	21	20	10	12	10
Group leader	2,666	11	20	25	15	7	7	8
Giver of direct service	5,298	8	18	23	18	8	10	8
Clerical	964	16	14	22	19	14	4	7
Other *	8,176	17	24	20	14	4	5	5

* See footnote to Table 60.

Table 24. Type of volunteer work done during period April 7 thru 13 by type of organization worked for

(Percent distribution)

Type	Number (In thousands)	Fund raiser	Organiser or planner	Group leader	Giver of direct service	Clerical	Other*
Health	2,244	28%	12%	1%	42%	9%	5%
Education	2,271	5	13	6	66	5	2
Justice	165	3	5	7	81	—	—
Citizenship	1,871	2	13	67	10	3	3
Recreation	1,700	2	11	64	18	1	2
Social/Welfare	1,152	11	18	3	52	4	10
Civic/Comm. Action	2,187	9	26	8	39	7	11
Religious	7,711	2	5	1	14	4	72
Political	428	17	21	—	3	9	44
Other	574	6	20	11	38	13	8
Total	15,455	8	13	17	34	6	40

* See footnote to Table 19.

Table 25. Age group of people with whom volunteers worked, April 7 thru 13, by type of organization

(Percent distribution)

Organization	Age in years			
	6–13	14–19	20–59	60 plus
Total	45%	37%	57%	29%
Health	25	27	73	41
Education	54	25	29	3
Justice	17	32	68	25
Citizenship	67	54	24	5
Recreation	61	40	25	6
Social/Welfare	18	15	40	59
Civic/Comm. Action	16	27	80	27
Religion	42	36	58	32
Political	5	16	90	37
Other	23	37	75	27

Table 26. Hours of volunteer work during period April 7 thru 13, by type of organization

(Percent distribution)

Organization	Less than and including one Hr.	1+ and thru 2 hours	2 plus thru 4 hours	4 plus thru 8 hours	8 plus thru 14 hours	More than 14 hours	Aver. No. of hours
Total	15%	24%	26%	19%	8%	8%	9
Health	9	19	23	21	7	7	7
Education	11	19	23	17	6	6	6
Justice	4	24	8	15	14	12	9
Citizenship	12	25	24	15	4	6	7
Recreation	8	16	24	16	10	9	9
Social/Welfare	12	18	28	9	5	4	6
Civic/Comm. Action	8	21	22	16	8	8	7
Religious	17	23	19	13	5	6	6
Political	12	13	14	13	9	14	10
Other	10	10	20	15	8	19	16

Appendix D
Programs of ACTION

This survey has shown there are at least seven million new volunteers to be recruited. They can pick and choose from thousands of organizations already in existence to give their time and energy. However, ACTION, the federal service agency which administers volunteer programs both at home and abroad, has a number of on-going volunteer organizations that may suit many new volunteers. They are:

ACTION CITIES is the creation of a community-based council which would develop and implement a program to maximize the impact on a limited number of community problems by integrating, focusing and coordinating local technical and financial resources in cooperation with ACTION and non-ACTION volunteers.

ACTION COOPERATIVE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (ACVP) is a full-time volunteer program designed as a means of sharing ACTION'S volunteer resources and its program experience with other governmental and private non-profit entities. These agencies and institutions contribute to the direct costs of supporting the volunteers during their terms of service.

ACTIVE CORPS OF EXECUTIVES (ACE) is a volunteer group of businessmen and businesswomen who provide management assistance to small businesses with problems. ACE is cooperatively administered by ACTION and the Small Business Administration.

CITY - COUNTY - REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (CCR) establishes the capability through the creation of a voluntary action office with local jurisdictions to effectively manage part-time volunteer programs intended to expand or improve the services provided by the jurisdiction.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP) provides opportunities for low-income persons, age sixty and over, to serve children with special needs on a person-to-person basis. Foster Grandparents serve in hospitals, correctional facilities, institutions for the mentally retarded, and homes for physically handicapped, emotionally disturbed, and dependent and neglected. New legislation now permits them to serve in settings other than residential institutions, including schools, day care centers, and the children's own homes. Foster Grandparents serve four hours a day, five days a week, and receive a modest stipend for their service. They also receive accident insurance coverage, annual physical examinations, transportation to and from their place of assignment, pre-service and in-service training, and information and referral services.

MINI-GRANTS is a program that provides small amounts of money to local organizations to mobilize relatively large numbers of part-time volunteers to work on anti-poverty projects with specific goals achievable within a definite time period.

NATIONAL STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (NSVP) is a supportive program designed to foster growth and increase the quality of local independent college and high school student volunteer programs which provide services to the poverty community. NSVP's services for student volunteer programs consist of technical asistance materials, training and onsite consultation. NSVP does not grant operating funds or control local efforts in any way.

PROGRAM FOR LOCAL SERVICE (PLS) provides a relatively large number of full-time volunteers the opportunity to serve within their own community, working with individual sponsors on mutually-agreed upon service projects.

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP) provides a recognized role in the community, and a meaningful life in retirement for older adults through significant volunteer service. Senior Volunteers are age sixty and over. They serve on a regular basis in public or private non-profit organizations such as schools, libraries, courts, museums, hospitals, nursing homes, and day care centers. There are no eligibility requirements for volunteers based on income, education or experience. ACTION grants are awarded to support the development and operation of local RSVPs. These local programs encourage organizations and agencies to develop a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for retired persons. They recruit and place Senior Volunteers, assist them with transportation to and from their place of assignment, provide appropriate recognition activities, arrange for any necessary training and develop community support for the program.

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM (SCP) primarily benefits low-income older persons, giving them an opportunity to perform useful and satisfying volunteer services. Additionally, provision of a stipend and other direct benefits will enable this segment of the community—low-income older persons—to overcome the combined hardships of poverty and old age. Senior Companions will serve other adults—especially older persons living in their own homes, in nursing homes and institutions. All persons served must be adults with special needs, such as those receiving nursing care or having developmental disabilities. A key effort of the program is to help older persons remain in their own homes.

SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES (SCORE) is a volunteer program that links retired businessmen and businesswomen who have management expertise with the owners/managers of small business and community organizations that need management counseling. This program is sponsored by ACTION and the Small Business Administration.

STATE VOLUNTEER SERVICE COORDINATOR PROGRAM (STATEWIDE) through the creation of a voluntary action office within state government, establishes the capability to effectively manage part-time volunteer programs intended to expand or improve the services provided by the jurisdiction. This program has been developed in conjunction with the national governor's conference.

UNIVERSITY YEAR FOR ACTION (UYA) is a program for full-time students who receive a full year of academic credit while working on poverty related problems. It operates through grants to educational institutions which work with the community to identify and eliminate poverty problems. In cooperation with the local sponsoring organizations the college or university selects, trains and supervises the student volunteers. Academic credit for community service is granted through a non-traditional learning system developed by the educational institutions.

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA) provides full-time volunteers to organizations which request VISTA assistance in solving specific problems of poverty and poverty-related human, social and environmental needs in the community. VISTA volunteers, recruited either locally by the sponsoring organization or through a nationwide recruitment system, serve for a minimum of one year, living and working in the low-income community. The goal of VISTA's involvement is to assist the community in developing its capacity to mobilize the total range of the community's resources, and then to gradually phase out the volunteers' activities as the community becomes increasingly self-reliant.

YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM (YCP) is a program to test a full range of volunteer delivery models for young people in the 14-21 year-old age group to serve poverty communities. It is intended that the volunteers will serve on a part-time though regular basis; and that their volunteer assignments will relate to individual class room, vocational or other learning interests. The program is designed to require significant cost sharing from the outset; and short-term institutionalization through local funding sources.

PEACE CORPS, since 1961, has been serving in developing countries in Africa, Near East, Asia, South America, Central America, the Caribbean and the Pacific to fulfill the goals set forth at its beginning:

- To help developing nations meet their needs for trained manpower.
- To promote better understanding of American people on the part of the people being served.
- To promote better understanding of other peoples among Americans.

At the invitation of a host government, Volunteers serve two years in assignments which are integrated into the goals and plans of the country. Volunteers work in 69 countries throughout the world, providing training and technical assistance in agriculture, health, education and urban and rural development.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP provides students, club members, church members and other Americans the opportunity to participate in a partnership project to raise money to pay for materials to build schools and other needed facilities, such as health clinics, in developing countries.

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